

WHAT IS GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION?

After the normal registration closes 28 days prior to the election, individuals may register in-person at the office of their election authority. The grace period for voter registration is the 27th to the 14th day prior to the election.

WHEN IS THE ELECTION?

The Illinois primary election is February 5, 2008, six weeks earlier than the last Illinois primary, and the general election is November 4, 2008.

WHEN CAN PEOPLE REGISTER TO VOTE?

They can vote any time until the normal deadline. For the primary, the normal deadline is Jan. 8, 2008, and for the general election, the normal deadline is Oct. 7, 2008.

The grace period for registering for the primary is Jan. 9 to Jan. 22, 2008, and the grace period for the general election is Oct. 8 to Oct. 21, 2008.

WHERE CAN PEOPLE REGISTER TO VOTE?

During the grace period, people can only register at the office of the election authority or at a voter registration location specifically designated for this purpose by the election authority.

IS GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION NEW?

Yes, for a Presidential election in Illinois. For the 2006 statewide primary, 2,367 people registered during the grace period, and for the 2006 general election 6,524 people registered during the grace period.

CAN PEOPLE WHO REGISTER DURING THIS PERIOD VOTE ON ELECTION DAY?

No. They must vote in the office of the election authority or vote absentee by mail.

People who register during the grace period do not go to their polling place on Election Day, nor are they allowed to vote at early voting centers.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO REGISTER?

The qualifications are: U.S. citizenship; at least 18 years of age by Election Day; and resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day.

CAN I CHANGE MY REGISTRATION ADDRESS DURING GRACE PERIOD?

Yes. A registered voter may submit a change of address form, in person in the office of the election authority or at a voter registration location specifically designated for this purpose by the election authority.

WHAT IS EARLY VOTING?

Illinois voters may cast a ballot prior to Election Day without having to provide a reason or an excuse for wanting to vote early. This must be done by personal appearance.

HOW EARLY CAN PEOPLE VOTE?

Registered voters can vote early during the 22nd day through the 5th day preceding an election. So, early voting for the primary election will begin Jan. 14 and end Jan. 31, 2008. For the general election, early voting will begin Oct. 14 and end Oct. 30, 2008.

IS ABSENTEE VOTING STILL ALLOWED?

Yes. Absentee voting laws remain in place. Unlike an early voter, a person seeking an absentee ballot by law must provide a reason for voting absentee.

Most registered voters unable to be present at their polling places because of a physical incapacity will probably continue to vote absentee. Others may simply find it more convenient to go to an early voting center to vote.

Persons who desire an absentee ballot should contact their local election authority for an application. Registered voters can make application by mail 40 days to 5 days before an election or in person 40 days to 1 day before an election.



THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

A primary goal of the State Board of Elections is to help bring about greater understanding and participation in the electoral process.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the State.

The State Board works closely with election authorities in all regions of the State.

Elections are administered locally by the State's 110 election authorities. These are the county clerks in 101 counties, one county election commission and eight municipal election commissions.

As part of their many responsibilities, election authorities conduct local voter registration programs, train election judges, find polling places, prepare ballots, oversee Election Day activities and supervise the vote count at the local level.

For more information on Grace Period Voting, Early Voting, Absentee Voting or other election laws and procedures, contact your election authority or visit the Board's website: www.elections.il.gov

GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION

**Want to vote, but
forgot to register?
Deadline extended for
Illinois voters.**



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This pamphlet provides general information regarding grace period registration and voting, early voting and absentee voting.